

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08647 040411Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 728
INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION:
COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. IN A MAJOR SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
JUNE 3 PRESIDENT MARCOS ADDRESSED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.
HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. MILITARY TRIBUNALS. MARCOS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH
THE PERFORMANCE OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS. HE SAID HE WILL ISSUE
A DECREE WITHIN A FEW DAYS PHASING OUT MILITARY TRIBUNALS "AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE" FOR ALL CASES EXCEPT THOSE INVOLVING MILITARY
OFFENDERS. HE SAID AS AN IMMEDIATE STEP HE HAD DIRECTED
DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE TO TRANSFER TO CIVIL COURTS ALL
CASES OF DETAINEES WHICH HAVE NOT GONE THROUGH PRELIMINARY
INVESTIGATION OR WHICH CANNOT BE TRIED BECAUSE OF BACKLOGS.

3. RELEASE OF DETAINEES HELD WITHOUT CHARGES. MARCOS SAID
HE HAD ORDERED THE RELEASE OF ALL DETAINEES AGAINST WHOM NO
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CHARGES HAD BEEN FILED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS AS OF JUNE 3.

4. LOI ON HANDLING OF DETAINEES. MARCOS SAID HE PLANS TO
ISSUE A LETTER OF INSTRUCTION TO DND TO INTEGRATE AND UPDATE
ALL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO THE ARREST AND
DETENTION OF PRISONERS.

5. HERRERA CASE. MARCOS SAID THE GOP TOOK SWIFT ACTION IN THE HERRERA CASE. HE IMPLIED THEY WERE ALREADY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED TORTURE BEFORE INFORMED BY CHURCH OR U.S. SOURCES.

6. NUMBER OF DETAINEES. MARCOS SAID THERE ARE 4,764 PERSONS UNDER MILITARY DETENTION. THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 3,913 COMMON CRIMINALS, 598 HELD FOR CRIMES OF REBELLION/SUBVERSION, 192 MILITARY PERSONNEL, 49 POLICE PERSONNEL, AND 12 FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BEING HELD FOR GRAFT.

7. FULLER DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

8. COMMENT. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR MARCOS HAS MADE SIMILAR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING HIS INTENTION TO DO AWAY WITH MILITARY COMMISSIONS AND RELEASE UNCHARGED DETAINEES, BUT LITTLE OR NOTHING HAS COME OF THIS. NONETHELESS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT US-PHILIPPINE DIALOG ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THESE LATEST STATEMENTS. WE WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE HOW QUICKLY AND TO WHAT EXTENT GOP FOLLOWS THROUGH.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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